



LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS  
7500 ODAWA CIRCLE, HARBOR SPRINGS, MI 49740

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TRIBAL COUNCIL TRAVEL REPORT NARRATIVE

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**From:** Regina Gasco Bentley

**Date:** August 22-23, 2012

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**Re: United Tribes meeting**

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The United Tribes meeting started August 22 with a dinner meeting. Mr. Eric Trevan was the guest speaker. He talked about "Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth."

Thursday, Thursday August 23, 2012, The meeting was called to order at 8:35.

Honorable Cameron Davis, Senior Advisor to the Administrator (Great Lakes), US EPA, he a an update of the Great Lakes Restoration progress and that Bad River, Keweenaw Bay, Bay Mills ad Red Cliff were the four tribes that have made great progress in these areas.

Cathy Abramson, President of the National Indian Health Board gave an update on the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Consumers Conference. She also spoke of the funding challenges that our area is having. The Bemini Area is the lowest funded area in the United States. We were provided a copy of the Resolution in "Support of the Reauthorization of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. She also brought her concerns with the need for more involvement with the the Health Directors from the tribes. I would like to see our Health Director be able to attend more of the meeting and conferences that the National Indian Health Board has to offer.

Mr. David Perrin did a presentation on his company RWI benefits. He talked about insurance benefits and possible ways his company could help tribes to save money on insurance.

Melissa Claramunt from the Michigan Department of Civil Rights gave an update on the Michigan Tuition Waiver. I was proud to see that LTBB had the highest number students using the tuition

wavier. We have 444 citizens verified.

Honorable Pat Miles was introduced he is the new US Attorney, Western District of Michigan and would like to visit each tribe in Michigan. He will be in the area in October.

Although it was only a ½ day meeting and was very informative. I would like our Health Department to become more involved in the issues with the funding and be able to attend more of the meeting concerning them. I talked with the chairman of possible allowing the Health Director and someone from the Diabetes Program to be at the upcoming meeting of the Health Board. We need to be pro active of trying to receive the funding needed for these programs. The more voices we have the better chance we have of receiving this funding.

Thank you for allowing me to attend this meeting.

Regina Bentley

